

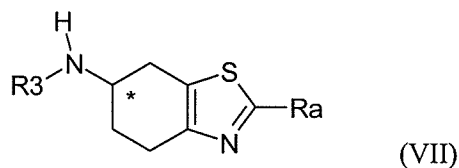
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

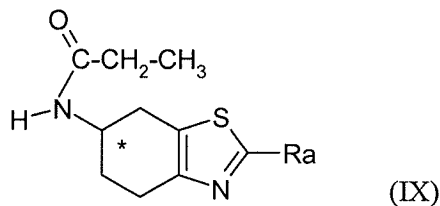
Listing of Claims:

1-29 (Cancelled)

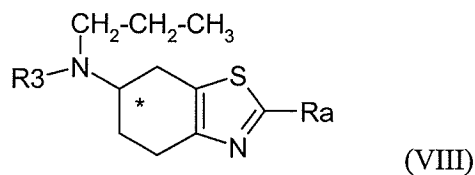
30. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of pramipexole, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, comprising the acylation of a compound of formula (VII), either as the single (S) enantiomer or as mixture of (R,S) enantiomers



wherein R₃ is hydrogen and Ra is a free or protected amino group, by reaction with propionic anhydride, and subsequent reduction of the resulting compound of formula (IX)



wherein Ra is as defined above, by treatment with an alkali metal borohydride and molecular iodine, to obtain a compound of formula (VIII)

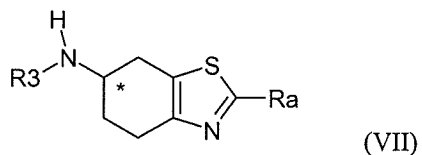


wherein R_3 is hydrogen and R_a is as defined above;
followed, if necessary, by deprotection of the primary amino group and/or by
resolution of the mixture of (R,S) enantiomers into the single (S) enantiomer
and, if desired, by conversion of pramipexole to a pharmaceutically acceptable
salt thereof.

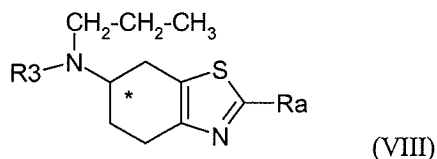
31. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 30, wherein the
alkali metal borohydride is NaBH_4 in amounts of 1-5 mols per mole of compound
of formula (IX) and the amount of iodine is 0.5-3 mols per mole of compound of
formula (IX).

32. (Cancelled)

33. (New) Process for the preparation of pramipexole, or a
pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, comprising the alkylation of a
compound of formula (VII) as the single (S) enantiomer

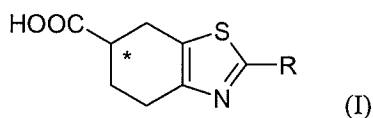


wherein R_a is a free or protected amino group, R_3 is hydrogen or a R_4 -O-
CO-group, wherein R_4 is straight or branched C_1 - C_4 alkyl and the asterisk
* indicates the stereogenic carbon atom, to obtain a compound of formula
(VIII)



wherein Ra, R₃ and the asterisk * are as defined above, and, if necessary, the removal of the primary amino-protecting group and/or of the R₄-OR-CO- group from the secondary amino group and, if desired, its conversion to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, characterized in that:

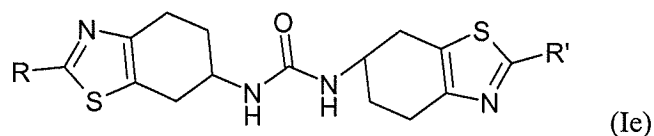
- a) a compound of formula (VII), wherein Ra is a protected amino group and R₃ is as defined above, as the single (S) enantiomer, is prepared by rearrangement of a compound of formula (I), as the single (S) enantiomer,



wherein R is a protected amino group; R₁ is straight or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, optionally substituted by phenyl; and the asterisk * indicates the stereogenic carbon atom, *via* formation of isocyanate, and subsequent addition of a nucleophilic solvent or subsequent quenching in water in the presence of an acidic agent; or

- b) a compound or formula (VII), wherein Ra is a free amino group and R₃

is hydrogen, as the single (S) enantiomer, is prepared by rearrangement of a compound of formula (I), as the single (S) enantiomer, *via* formation of isocyanate, and subsequent addition of water, to obtain a compound of formula (Ie)

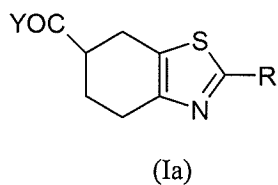


wherein R' has the same meaning as R defined above, and subsequent hydrolysis.

34. (New) A process according to claim 33, variant a), wherein quenching in water in the presence of an acidic agent affords a compound of formula (VII), as defined in claim 33, wherein R₃ is hydrogen.

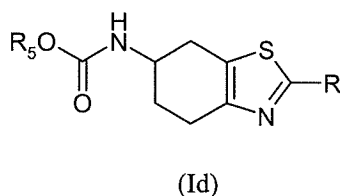
35. (New) A process according to claim 33, variant a), wherein the nucleophilic solvent is a C₁-C₄ alkanol, to obtain a compound of formula (VII), as defined a claim 33, wherein R₃ is a R₄-O-CO- group, where R₄ is as defined in claim 33.

36. (New) A process according to claim 33, variant a), wherein the rearrangement reaction is carried out according to Curtius in a nucleophilic solvent, *via* formation of a compound of formula (Ia)



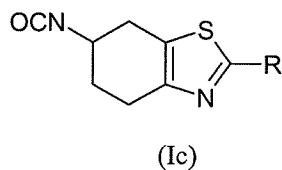
in which Y is N₃;

and of a compound of formula (Id)



wherein R₅ is a straight or branched C₁-C₄ alkyl group, without recovery of the intermediates.

37. (New) A process according to claim 33, wherein the rearrangement takes place via formation of a isocyanate of formula (Ic)



in which R is a protected amino group, and subsequent addition of a nucleophilic solvent or subsequent quenching in water in the presence of an acidic agent.